

Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves.

Localism is not served when a corporate headquarters decides to provide one side in local elections a louder voice than others. During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time. Giving free airtime to republicans and making other groups pay? What happens when the other groups who have opposing opinions have had to spend all of their funds just to get equal time? We then will have only one voice telling us only what they want us to hear. That's fine if it were only one privately owned station.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard. Please do not allow them to abuse the system. I believe that Pappas has shown us that they can be bought. They have "sold out". Renewing their licence should not happen. If they are allowed to do this and are given a new licence to operate after their current one expires it will send a message to the country, that America is not even trying to be a land of equality, freedom, and integrity. They will say that in America only the rich can speak out. The rest of us will only be able to be heard if we take to the streets.

But if the republicans own all of the media it won't be televised, or they will twist it into more of their propaganda. Possibly use it as an excuse to wage war on those who do not have the same conservative views. Or has that already begun? Leading to what amounts to a second "Civil War".

I know I am jumping ahead here, but this seems where we are headed eventually. Unless actions are taken against the corrupt, they will only spread their arms out wider to grab more of the people's money and freedom. That is all they love, Money and Power.

Thank you.

Matthew Fannin